

1.1: Solutions of Linear Equations and Inequalities in One Variable

Definition.

A **function** f is a special relation between x and y such that each input x results in *at most* one y . The symbol $f(x)$ is read “ f of x ” and is called the **value of f at x**

Example. Let $f(x) = 4x - 1$. Evaluate the following:

$$\begin{aligned} f(1) &= 4(1) - 1 \\ &= 4 - 1 \\ &= \boxed{3} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) &= 4\left(\frac{1}{2}\right) - 1 \\ &= \frac{4}{2} - 1 \\ &= 2 - 1 = \boxed{1} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(-2) &= 4(-2) - 1 \\ &= -8 - 1 \\ &= \boxed{-9} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(0) &= 4(0) - 1 \\ &= 0 - 1 \\ &= \boxed{-1} \end{aligned}$$

$$f(\odot) = \boxed{4\odot - 1}$$

$$\begin{aligned} f(f(x)) &= 4(f(x)) - 1 \\ &= 4(4x - 1) - 1 \\ &= 16x - 4 - 1 = \boxed{16x - 5} \end{aligned}$$

Composite Functions:

Let f and g be functions of x . Then, the **composite functions** g of f (denoted $g \circ f$) and f of g (denoted $f \circ g$) are defined as:

$$(g \circ f)(x) = g(f(x))$$

$$(f \circ g)(x) = f(g(x))$$

Example. Let $g(x) = x - 1$. Find:

$$\begin{aligned} (g \circ f)(x) &= g(f(x)) \\ &= (f(x)) - 1 \\ &= (4x - 1) - 1 \\ &= \boxed{4x - 2} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} (f \circ g)(x) &= f(g(x)) \\ &= 4(g(x)) - 1 \\ &= 4(x - 1) - 1 \\ &= 4x - 4 - 1 \\ &= \boxed{4x - 5} \end{aligned}$$

Operations with Functions:

Let f and g be functions of x and define the following:

Sum	$(f + g)(x) = f(x) + g(x)$
Difference	$(f - g)(x) = f(x) - g(x)$
Product	$(f \cdot g)(x) = f(x) \cdot g(x)$
Quotient	$\left(\frac{f}{g}\right)(x) = \frac{f(x)}{g(x)}$ if $g(x) \neq 0$

Definition.

An **expression** is a meaningful string of numbers, variables and operations:

$$3x - 2$$

An **equation** is a statement that two quantities or algebraic expressions are equal:

$$3x - 2 = 7$$

A **solution** is a value of the variable that makes the equation true:

$$3(3) - 2 = 7$$

$$9 - 2 = 7$$

$$7 = 7$$

A **solution set** is the set of ALL possible solutions of an equation:

$3x - 2 = 7$ only has the solution $x = 3$,

$2(x - 1) = 2x - 2$ is true for all possible values of x .

Properties of Equality:

Substitution Property: The equation formed by substituting one expression for an equal expression is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{aligned}3(x - 3) - \frac{1}{2}(4x - 18) &= 4 \\3x - 9 - 2x + 9 &= 4 \\x &= 4\end{aligned}$$

Addition Property: The equation formed by adding the same quantity to both sides of an equation is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{array}{ll}x - 4 = 6 & x + 5 = 12 \\x - 4 + 4 = 6 + 4 & x + 5 + (-5) = 12 + (-5) \\x = 10 & x = 7\end{array}$$

Multiplication Property: The equation formed by multiplying both sides of an equation by the same *nonzero* quantity is equivalent to the original equation:

$$\begin{array}{ll}\frac{1}{3}x = 6 & 5x = 20 \\3\left(\frac{1}{3}x\right) = 3(6) & \frac{5x}{5} = \frac{20}{5} \\x = 18 & x = 4\end{array}$$

Solving a linear equation:

Using the properties of equality above, we can solve any linear equation in 1 variable:

Example. Solve $\frac{3x}{4} + 3 = \frac{x-1}{3}$

1. Eliminate fractions:
2. Remove/evaluate parenthesis:
3. Use addition property to isolate the variable to one side:
4. Use multiplication property to isolate variable:
5. Verify solution via substitution:

$$12\left(\frac{3x}{4} + 3\right) = 12\left(\frac{x-1}{3}\right)$$

$$9x + 36 = 4x - 4$$

$$9x + 36 - 36 - 4x = 4x - 4 - 36 - 4x$$

$$\frac{5x}{5} = \frac{-40}{5}$$

$$\underbrace{\frac{3(-8)}{4} + 3}_{-6 + 3 = -3} \stackrel{?}{=} \underbrace{\frac{(-8) - 1}{3}}_{\frac{-9}{3} = -3}$$

Example. Solve the following:

$$(2)(3)\left(\frac{3x+1}{2}\right) = \left(\frac{x}{3} - 3\right)(2)(3)$$

$$3(3x+1) = 2x - (2)(3)3$$

$$9x + 3 - 2x = 2x - 18 - 2x$$

$$7x + 3 - 3 = -18 - 3$$

$$\frac{7x}{7} = \frac{-21}{7}$$

$$\boxed{x = -3}$$

Verification of solution omitted

$$(x-3)\left(\frac{2x-1}{x-3}\right) = \left(4 + \frac{5}{x-3}\right)(x-3)$$

$$2x-1 = 4(x-3) + 5$$

$$2x-1 - 4x = 4x-12+5 - 4x$$

$$-2x - 1 + 1 = -7 + 1$$

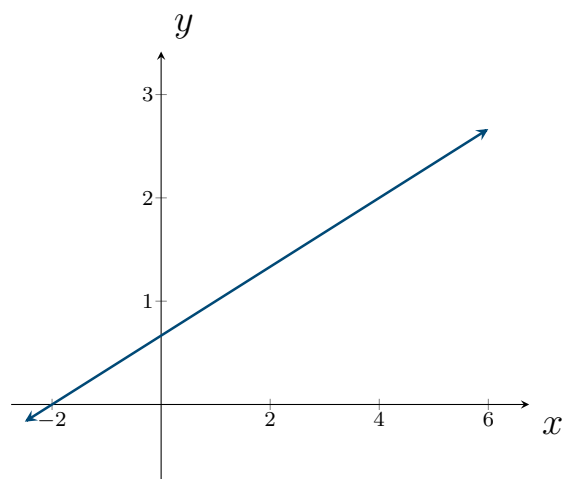
$$\frac{-2x}{-2} = \frac{-6}{-2}$$

$$\boxed{x = 3}$$

When verifying this solution, we see that both sides are undefined at $x=3$.

Example. Solve $-2x + 6y = 4$ for y

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{-2x} + 6y &= 4 \\ \underline{+2x} &+ 2x \\ 6y &= 2x + 4 \\ \underline{6} &\quad \underline{6} \\ y &= \frac{2x}{6} + \frac{4}{6} \\ y &= \frac{x}{3} + \frac{2}{3} \end{aligned}$$



Example. Suppose that the relationship between a firm's profit, P , and the number of items sold, x , can be described by the equation

$$5x - 4P = 1200$$

a) How many units must be produced and sold for the firm to make a profit of \$150?

$$P = \$150, \text{ Find } x$$

$$5x - 4(150) = 1200$$

$$5x - \underline{600} + \underline{600} = 1200 + 600$$

$$\underline{5x} = \underline{1800}$$

$$x = 360$$

b) Solve this equation for P in terms of x . Then, find the profit when 240 units are sold.

$$\begin{aligned} \underline{5x} - 4P &= 1200 \\ \underline{-5x} &- 5x \\ -4P &= -5x + 1200 \\ \underline{-4} &\quad \underline{-4} \end{aligned}$$

$$P = \frac{-5x}{-4} + \frac{1200}{-4}$$

$$P = \frac{5x}{4} - 300$$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= 240 \\ P &= \frac{5(240)}{4} - 300 \\ &= 5(60) - 300 \\ &= 300 - 300 \end{aligned}$$

$$P = 0$$

Break-even point

Definition.

An **inequality** is a statement that one quantity is greater than (or less than) another quantity.

Properties of Inequalities

Substitution Property: The inequality formed by substituting one expression for an equal expression is equivalent to the original inequality:

$$5x - 4x + 2 < 6$$

$$x < 4 \Rightarrow \text{The solution set is } \{x : x < 6\}$$

Addition Property: The inequality formed by adding the same quantity to both sides of an inequality is equivalent to the original inequality:

$$x - 4 < 6$$

$$x - 4 + 4 < 6 + 4$$

$$x < 10$$

$$x + 5 \geq 12$$

$$x + 5 + (-5) \geq 12 + (-5)$$

$$x \geq 7$$

Multiplication Property The inequality formed by multiplying both sides of an inequality by the same *positive* quantity is equivalent to the original inequality. The direction of the inequality is flipped when multiplying by a *negative* quantity:

$$\frac{1}{3}x > 6$$

$$3\left(\frac{1}{3}x\right) > 3(6)$$

$$x > 18$$

$$5x - 5 + 5 \leq 6x + 20 + 5$$

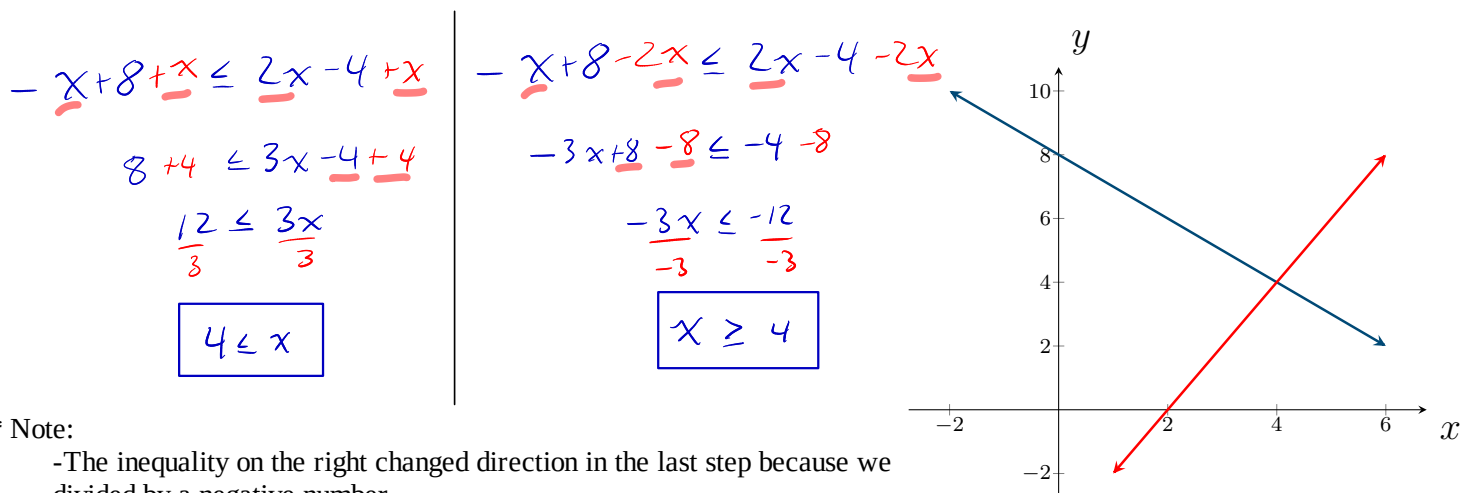
$$\frac{-x}{-1} \leq \frac{25}{-1}$$

$$x \geq -25$$

Example. Solve

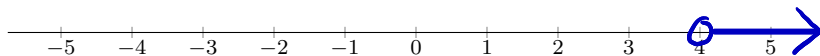
$$-x + 8 \leq 2x - 4$$

first by gathering the x variable on the left, then again on the right. See that the multiplication property holds in both cases. Plot the solution set on a numberline.



* Note:

- The inequality on the right changed direction in the last step because we divided by a negative number
- The answers above are equivalent. They are only formatted differently.



Example. Plot the following inequalities:

$$x \leq 2$$

$$x > -3$$

